

Message Text

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DRAFTED BYEA/ IMS: WBGRANT

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EA: LIRICK

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R 101610 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 044557

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR MANILA INFO
BANGKOK SINGAPORE MARCH 10, FROM SECSTATE REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE:

S E C R E T STATE 044557

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, ID, MY, RP

SUBJ: MUSLIM UPRISING IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

REF: A. STATE 042042

B. CINCPAC 231903 Z FEB 73

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN ASKED AMBASSADOR THAJEB
MARCH 9 ABOUT REPORT (REF B) THAT GOI HAS INVITED SABAH
CHIEF MINISTER MUSTAPHA TO INDONESIA IN ORDER PERSUADE
HIM TO STOP SUPPORTING MUSLIM INSURGENTS IN SOUTHERN
PHILIPPINES. GREEN NOTED THAT GOP CLAIMS IT HAS CLEAR
EVIDENCE OF OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENTS. WHILE WE
HAVE NO WAY OF CHECKING ON GOP CLAIMS, SITUATION APPEARS
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SERIOUS. INDONESIA AS LEADING MEMBER ASEAN IN GOOD POSITION TO HELP FIND SOLUTION TO THIS EXPLOSIVE SITUATION AND WE HOPE INDONESIA AND ITS ASEAN PARTNERS WILL FIND WAY TO DEFUSE PROBLEM.

2. THAJEB RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT MUSTAPHA IS A FANATIC WHO " MUST BE QUIETED DOWN". ACCORDING THAJEB, PRIME MINISTER RAZAK HAS ASKED MALIK TO HELP WITH MUSTAPHA BECAUSE RAZAK " DOES NOT DARE TO ACT AGAINST HIM." THAJEB EXPLAINED THAT MUSTAPHA HAS THREATENED TO JOIN SABAH WITH INDONESIA IF RAZAK PUTS PRESSURE ON HIM.

3. THAJEB OBSERVED THAT BASIC PROBLEM IS GOP CLAIM TO SABAH WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, GOI INTENDS INVITE MUSTAPHA TO INDONESIA, GIVE HIM A MEDAL, AND MAKE IT CLEAR HE MUST " QUIET DOWN" BECAUSE ASEAN CANNOT AFFORD AN UPHEAVAL ANYWHERE IN THE REGION. GOI WILL ALSO TAKE CONSISTENT POSITION THAT INSURGENCY IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES IS INTERNAL PHILIPPINE MATTER.

4. THAJEB WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT GOI IS FEARFUL PRC OR SOVIETS WILL FIND WAY TO INTERVENE IF FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. ASKED IF GOI IS NOT ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LIBYAN INTERVENTION, THAJEB SAID YES. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT MALIK HAS TOLD THE LIBYANS TO " STAY OUT OF THE MATTER".

5. THAJEB INCLINED TO VIEW THAT PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED IF GOP RENOUNCED ITS CLAIM TO SABAH, BUT OBSERVED THAT THIS VIEW " NOT YET" COMMUNICATED TO GOP.

6. GREEN SAID WE APPRECIATE WHAT GOI DOING, AND WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE ASEAN TO FIND ASEAN SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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